

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 231135Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0277

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RO YU UR

SUBJ: ROMANIAN REACTION TO "COMINFORMISTS" ARRESTS

REF: BELGRADE 4528

1. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO ROMANIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON "COMINFORMISTS" AFFAIR, PARTY PAPER SCINTEIA (SEPTEMBER 14) AND WEEKLY LUMEA (SEPTEMBER 19) BOTH PRINTED EXTENSIVE, APPARENTLY VERBATIM ACCOUNTS OF TITO'S REVELATIONS. LUMEA'S VERSION, RUNNING TO ONE FULL PAGE, WOULD SEEM TO CONTAIN TITO'S VIRTUALLY EVERY WORD ON TOPIC, INCLUDING THREAT TO CONVENE ANOTHER 21ST SESSION AND TO STIFLE ANY MOVEMENT OF "COMINFORMIST, LIBERALIST, NATIONALIST OR ANY OTHER" ELEMENTS. CENTRAL PRESS SEPTEMBER 22-23 ALSO CARRIED APPARENTLY FULL QUOTE OF TANYUG ITEM ON SENTENCING OF PLOTTERS.

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2. COMMENT: SOVIET DIPLOMAT HERE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN

INSTRUCTED TO KEEP LOW PROFILE ON ISSUE AND REPAIR DAMAGE. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR TOOK ESSENTIALLY NIKOFOROV LINE (REFTEL, PARA 7) OF INJURED REASONABLENESS, ALTHOUGH HIS DENIAL OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT WAS HEDGED SLIGHTLY, AND HE ADDED "MESSAGE" FOR EMBASSY'S ROMANIAN CONTACTS TO EFFECT THAT SOVIETS COULD ASSURE THEM NO INTERFERENCE WAS CONTEMPLATED TOWARD THE ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. EFFECT OF SCINTEIA AND LUMEA REPRINTS IS TO GIVE IMPLICIT GOR SUPPORT TO TITO'S ACTIONS, IN WAKE OF WHICH ROMANIAN PARTY PROGRAM'S SEPTEMBER 1 WARNING AGAINST ONE COMMUNIST PARTY'S INTERFERENCE IN ANOTHER'S AFFAIRS, OR SUPPORT OF "FRACTIONS" FROM OUTSIDE, LOOKS PRESCIENT. ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL ROMANIAN CONTACTS HAVE BEEN CHARY OF COMMENTING SO FAR, WE EXPECT THAT GOR IS GRATIFIED TO SEE POSSIBLE PRO-SOVIET, MEDDLING GET ITS COMEUPANCE AND FOR TITO TO SCREW YUGOSLAV UNITY AND DISCIPLINE ANOTHER NOTCH TIGHTER, BUT ALSO WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS IN POST-TITO BALKAN ERA. CZECH EMBOFF, IN THIS CONNECTION, POINTED TO ALLEGED CALL ON GOY BY ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE WHEN STORY BROKE AS EVIDENCE OF GOR CONCERN.

BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, PARTY FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUCHAR04387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740267-0386
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740924/aaaaatoy.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BELGRADE 4528
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN REACTION TO "COMINFORMISTS" ARRESTS
TAGS: PFOR, RO, YO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005